

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, ET

SUBJECT:REUTERS STORY ON CUT OFF OF ARMS TO ETHIOPIA

REF: (A) ADDIS ABABA 2700 (B) POST-TIENKEN PHONE CONVER-
SATION

1. RADIO BROADCAST REFERRED TO IN REF A APPARENTLY BASED ON
REUTER'S STORY DATED WASHINGTON APRIL 27. TEXT AS
FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE UNITED STATES HAS TEMPORARILY STOPPED
DELIVERY TO ETHIOPIA OF NEARLY L00 MILLION DOLLARS IN ARMS
FOLLOWING THE ADDIS ABABA GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CLOSE
MOST AMERICAN FACILITIES THERE, GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAY.
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THE WHITE HOUSE DECISION COVERED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED
REQUESTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT, THE SOURCES SAID. THEY
SAID NO WEAPONS WERE NOW ON THE WAY TO ETHIOPIA BY SHIP OR
PLANE.

THEY ALSO SAID THE STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS WERE

COMPILING A DETAILED LIST OF ETHIOPIAN-ORDERED ARMS FOR A POLICY REVIEW.

ON THE LIST WERE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PURCHASES OF F-5E FIGHTERS, M-60 TANKS AND AMMUNITION. BUT THE SOURCES DOUBTED THE POLICY REVIEW WOULD ALLOW DELIVERY OF THE PLANES OR TANKS. SOME AMMUNITION FOR FIGHTERS AND TANKS PROVIDED OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS MIGHT BE ALLOWED.

THE SOURCES NOTED THE SOVIET UNION AGREED LAST DECEMBER TO SUPPLY WEAPONS AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA AND SAID IT WOULD PROBABLY MAKE UP AT LEAST PARTLY FOR ANY U.S. CUT-OFF.

ETHIOPIA HAD A GOOD COFFEE CROP AND, WITH EXPORTS BOOMING, SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE BUYING RUSSIAN ARMS, THE SOURCES SAID.

THEY SAID THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAD NOT USED U.S. ARMS SALES CREDITS EXTENDED LAST YEAR AND THE PENTAGON IN LATE 1976 WANTED TO STOP ARMS AID BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OPPOSED THIS.

WITHIN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, THE SOURCES SAID, THE UNITED STATES HAD TURNED DOWN AN ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR 65 MILLION DOLLARS OF AMMUNITION BUT INDICATED IT WOULD SUPPLY A SMALLER ORDER. ETHIOPIA DID NOT REPLY.

LAST WEEKEND, THE ETHIOPIANS ORDERED THE UNITED STATES UNCLASSIFIED

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TO CLOSE ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY UNIT, THE 25-YEAR-OLD KAGNEW COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY, A NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT, AND THE U.S. INFORMATION SERVICE OFFICE. THE ETHIOPIANS ALSO ORDERED A NUMBER OF U.S. PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

SIMILAR ACTION WAS TAKEN AGAINST OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

THE SOURCES SAID THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THE ETHIOPIAN MOVE UNTIL ABOUT A DAY BEFORE IT OCCURRED.

THEY SAID U.S. OFFICIALS INFORMED ETHIOPIA LATE LAST WEEK THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDED TO CLOSE KAGNEW AND REDUCE FURTHER THE SIZE OF THE MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP.

THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT TOLD THE U.S. OFFICIALS IT WOULD SOON BE MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS OWN.

THE SOURCES SAID THE UNITED STATES HAD INTENDED TO CLOSE THE KAGNEW FACILITY IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS BECAUSE ITS FUNCTION OF COMMUNICATING WITH U.S. NAVY SHIPS IN THE NORTHERN INDIAN OCEAN HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER BY SATELLITES.

THEY SAID THE STRENGTH OF THE MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP HAD DROPPED TO LESS THAN 50 FROM 80 BECAUSE THE ETHIOPIANS HAD LARGELY PERVERTED THE GROUP FROM WORKING WITH MILITARY UNITS IN THE FIELD.

THE UNITED STATES HAD INTENDED TO REDUCE THE GROUP FURTHER, TO ABOUT 20 MEMBERS, AS PART OF ITS WORLDWIDE CUTBACK OF SUCH ADVISORY UNITS, THE SOURCES SAID.

MANY ETHIOPIAN OFFICERS HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING IN SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SOURCES SAID U.S. OFFICIALS WERE PUZZLED BY SOME OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS
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IN THE PAST YEAR. END TEXT.

3. PRESS GUIDANCE TO BE USED WASHINGTON FOLLOWS.

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Sent Date: 30-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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